

their number no mortal mind can compass! There is a very decided difference between them and secret proprietaries—those mixtures of unknown composition and mysterious virtues. No physician should, under any circumstances, make use of a mixture the composition of which is unknown to him. He does wrong to himself, to his common sense, to his standing in the profession, to his obligations to the sick and to the public, when he does use this stuff. Why? Because he does not know what his patient is taking, and hence may be giving him something highly injurious! With definite chemicals, however, the matter is different. After a new chemical has been studied and its physiological properties have been recognized (and this is generally done before it is put upon the market) there can be no objection to its use, if its action is what you consider desirable for your patient. The whole thing is very simple when you come down to the bottom of it. What are you giving your patient, and how much at a dose? If you know, and it is what you believe your patient needs, use it; if you do not (and nine times out of ten you do not if it is a proprietary mixture), don't touch it; don't soil your hands or your reputation with it. If it is a legitimate medicine, fit for use, the formula should be printed with the advertising statements concerning it; if the formula is not given, leave it alone; it is dangerous.

The manufacturer of a remedy—or medicine—  
 (“Any agent or substance used in the treatment  
 of disease”) who advertises

#### **TWO AGGRIEVED MANUFACTURERS.**

his remedy to the medical profession in the pages of medical journals, does so, presumably, with the not unreasonable hope that doctors will see the advertisements and prescribe his remedy in the treatment of their patients. That seems to be clear and within the range of probable truth. It necessarily follows, if the remedy is to be intelligently used, that the exact nature or composition must be stated in the advertisement; otherwise the conscientious physician cannot tell what it is nor use it, without loss of dignity to himself and doing injury to a broad fundamental principle of ethics. The Dios Chemical Co. and the Organic Chemical Co. consider themselves injured by the JOURNAL for the reason that their wares were included in a list of some remedies of unknown composition published in the August JOURNAL. The trouble is with the manufacturers and not with us. Had the advertisements of these things stated exactly the composition or nature of the remedies, they would not have been placed in bad company. The Dios Chemical Company manufactures remedies that are mixtures and it is with pleasure we note that their advertisement in the *Journal A. M. A.* now includes the formula. It does nobody much good to put the formula on the label of the bottle

and not in the advertisement; the doctor who wishes to prescribe a remedy cannot be expected to go and look at the bottle before he writes his prescription. In the case of the Organic Chemical Co., the remedy advertised appears to be a chemical; but that fact was not stated in the advertisement. The advertisement of definite chemical substances for which letters patent have been issued, should include the chemical name or the formula or the number of the patent, simply for purposes of identification.

“Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained wisdom.” With a complacency truly beautiful to behold we look upon Japan as an infant among nations, and are tremendously surprised that she can do things like other civilized peoples. So it has come like a shock to the medical men of this country, to learn that the medical corps of the Japanese army is the most efficient body of its kind in the world; even when handicapped with some really truly American Red Cross nurses, headed by Dr. Anita McGee and enlarded with tins of meat extract, ordered by telegraph. Japan, through her army medical corps, has shown the nations of the world their ignorance and crude folly in allowing 80% of deaths in an army on a war footing, to occur from preventable diseases. What a jar to our Occidental complacency! It has been conservatively estimated that the advantage of Russia in the total number of possible combatants is quite fully counterbalanced by the ability of the medical department of Japan to prevent needless loss of life by disease. Think of our impudence in sending tinned-beef-red-cross aid to a people who have, in spite of it, put the balance of the world to open shame!

The sixteenth edition of the Register and Directory, just issued by the State Society, contains very few errors; or rather, contained very few at the time the book went to press. Changes in address are coming in daily and probably there are a number of members who would like to be advised of such changes. It has therefore been decided to publish in the JOURNAL, from month to month, a list of the official changes of address which come to our attention. This list can be made very much more useful if members will bear in mind the necessity of advising this office of all changes promptly. Secretaries of county societies can also very materially aid in the work by checking up the lists of physicians in their respective counties and notifying the publication office of any errors, omissions or corrections noted in the county lists. No mortal man can make a satisfactory directory without the co-operation of others; the

Society cannot afford to send agents about the State to correct the county lists; this work is part of the duties of county society secretaries. The publication office is doing all possible to make the register accurate and to keep it so, and the more you aid in the work, the more nearly will the result approximate to accuracy.

Important action was taken by the Board of Medical Examiners at the meeting on October 26th. After consultation with the Attorney-General of California, and Attorneys-General of other States, it appeared that legally there should be no return of the fee paid by a candidate, in case of his rejection. The board ruled that it would retain half the fee and return the other half; probably further action will be taken at some subsequent time resulting in the retention of the whole fee. By unanimous vote of the board it was decided to abolish the "condition" system. Instead, a motion was passed to the effect that a minimum of 50% must be attained in each and every one of the nine subjects, and a general average of 75% in all. On motion, it was unanimously decided to send an official notice to every illegal practitioner known to the board, warning that unless he ceased from violation of the law the board would lend its influence to and co-operate with the county medical societies in enforcing the law. This is the first time that the Board of Medical Examiners, as such, has officially taken cognizance of the existence of illegal practitioners, or taken any action in the matter.

The suggestion made by Dr. Goodfellow, in the last JOURNAL, that notices of clinics, operations, etc., be sent to this office and posted for information of physicians from out of the city, has already been acted upon by some men. We are now receiving a few notices and hope, with the passage of time, to receive still more. Members of the Society visiting San Francisco should bear this in mind and come to the office to find out what clinics or operations are available. Beginning with January the JOURNAL will publish a list of all such notices sent in during the previous month, in order to give some sort of idea as to the nature of the material offered. Probably it will take a little time for the men who have control of the clinical material to learn to remember to send us notices, but the labor is not much and the result may be very great. We feel sure that members of the Society will highly appreciate the courtesy of the operators and clinicians in thus extending to them the opportunity of benefiting by this clinical material; and on the other hand, the operators and clinicians will be brought more closely in touch with their fellow members about the State.

Please, gentlemen of San Francisco, send in your notices; and members outside of San Francisco, come to the office when you are in the city and learn what material is offered.

#### EXAMINATIONS, OCTOBER 25th and 26th.

The following is the result of the recent examination. It will be seen that the average is just about the same as previous examinations. The questions in Chemistry have been criticized but we are advised by the board that no candidate failed for failure to pass in this subject.

##### PASSED.

University of California, 1904—84%, 83%, 80%, 77%, 76%, 76%, 76%, 75%.  
Cooper Med. Coll. 1904—84%, 83%.  
Hahnemann Med. Coll., S. F., 1904—79%, 77%, 77%, 75.  
Coll. of P. and S., N. Y., 1884—80.  
Northwestern Med. University, 1899—77.  
Johns Hopkins University, 1904—76%, 75.  
67.8% Passed.

##### FAILED.

University of California, 1904—70%.  
College of P. and S. San Francisco, 1904—61, 60%.  
College of P. and S. of Baltimore, 1904—66%.  
Univ. of Southern Calif., 1904—58%.  
Univ. of Iowa, 1904—64%.  
Harvard Med. School, 1896—64%.  
Med. Dept. University of Mich, 1881—66%.  
Albany Med. Coll., N. Y., 1892—58%.  
Calif. Med. Coll., 1904—(Failed third examination.)  
32.2% Failed.

Univ. of Calif.....	8	passed; 1 failed.
Cooper Med Coll.....	2	" 0 "
Coll. P. and S., S. F.....	0	" 2 "
Hahneman Med. Coll.....	4	" 0 "
Univ. Sou. Calif.....	0	" 1 "
Calif. Med. Coll.....	0	" 1 " (third time)

#### NEXT STATE EXAMINATION.

There will be an examination in San Francisco, December 6th, 1904.

#### Publication Committee Meeting.

The Publication Committee met on November 11th, and unanimously passed the following Resolution:

*Resolved*—1st, that in the opinion of this Committee, it is not in accordance with medical ethics for Medical Journals to advertise secret remedies.

2nd—That the definition of a remedy or medicine shall be "Any agent or substance used in the treatment of disease." (Gould's Dictionary).

3rd—The quantities of the active ingredients of any remedy advertised in the CALIFORNIA STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE must be published with all advertising statements relative to such remedy.

To the Trustees of the American Medical Association: "While many publishers are entirely without conscience and will continue to accept contracts for medical advertising which is objectionable and usually fraudulent in intent, yet it is a hopeful sign when the editors of the better class of periodicals recognize the inquiry they are parties to in accepting medical advertising, and forthwith decide to decline all such business."—*Fort Wayne Medical Journal-Magazine*. Here is another journal that seems to regard the advertising medium as responsible for the character of the advertising which it prints. Will our trustees wake up some day, or are they like the little ostrich who knew it all?